

# FRIENDS OF ALLEN PARK BUSHLAND GROUP



## Autumn news 2015

Much has happened between newsletters and the community at large will now be aware of the proposal by Defence Housing Australia (DHA) to redevelop the Seaward Village and sell off approximately 25% of the area for private housing to help pay for it. As we have not been provided with a cost analysis to justify DHA's choice to redevelop rather than refurbish the houses; nor options to address impacts on the road network around Allen Park; nor segregation of private from army housing to guarantee safety for Defence families, we cannot support what has been proposed. It is also our understanding that many families do not want their village to undergo a drastic facelift allowing many new privately owned residences within closer proximity of their homes.

While the process by which DHA has conducted itself been somewhat confusing, there is little to show for community collaboration. We have been represented at a number of meetings along with Friends of Allen Park in an attempt to engage openly and honestly with DHA, but their determination to redevelop holds strong. There is still a long way to go to get a consensus on future plans for Seaward Village. A Community information session is scheduled by DHA for 3-7pm 10<sup>th</sup> June at the Associates Rugby Club in Allen Park.

### **Impacts**

What impacts are there for Allen Park bushland? Having viewed a single schematic plan with perceived constraints in place left us little scope for creative thinking. One can only comment that as 25% of the footprint would be sold to help recover costs, the topography of Melon Hill would change as it is expected that Sayer Street would be realigned to allow for private housing to be positioned south of the village. This would mean slices would be taken off on the northwestern and western fringes of the hill, impacting on parrot-bush feeding grounds for the Carnaby's cockatoos and nesting areas for the migratory Rainbow bee-eaters. A slice of land would be acquired from the Swanbourne Reserve (Bush Forever site 315) on the western side. As overlooking from private dwellings to the barracks and army houses would pose a problem, it is anticipated the south-western area would step down to allow for houses to be oriented to avoid overlooking buildings to the north. Severe design guidelines would be imposed to ensure that overlooking the army houses and barracks would not occur.

Last Tuesday evening (26<sup>th</sup> May) a large contingent of Swanbourne residents turned up for the Nedlands Council meeting to witness and support the motion presented by Councillor Horley questioning impact on amenity, traffic, bushland and the planning process by which Council can be bypassed, i.e. using an Improvement Plan to fast track the project and take it directly to the WAPC, leaving Council powerless other than to comment. The motion was carried unanimously and amended to allow for the City's engagement with state and federal Members of Parliament and at least one senator on the issues arising from this proposal.

### **Swanbourne Precinct Master Plan**

Whilst Seaward Village remains in the spotlight, there are other issues coming to light on the southern boundary of Allen Park. The disused bowling greens have been the subject of attention for some time since the buildings were demolished many years ago. More recently, two hockey pitches and a waterpolo facility have been proposed for both green spaces - (including the beach oval). Again, impacts on bushland (the swale area between Flyash Hill (subject of 2 rounds of grants funding) would be lost), traffic movement, parking, noise and visual pollution would change the fabric of our

neighbourhood. The 2010 Swanbourne Precinct Masterplan (SPMP) should be brought up and endorsed through Council to provide the framework around which improvements to Allen Park should be guided. This particular area was originally earmarked for bushland and for a community garden. As the Mayo Community Garden is now establishing well in the Heritage Precinct, a proportion of the area may be considered for other purposes within acceptable limits. Vacant land adjacent to the Challenge Stadium would be much more suitable for sporting facilities being proposed. The Council meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> supported the intent to bring the SPMP forward for endorsement. A network of neighbours is working to get the SPMP back on the table at Nedlands Council.

### **Change of the guard**

Last month assistant to Vicki Shannon, Conservation Officer John Stuart, was farewelled at a Nedlands bushlands' group gathering at Swanbourne Beach. John was a dedicated worker and a pleasure to work with. We wished him well on his future prospects. Ken Okamitsu will now be joining us, so please make him welcome next time you see him.

### **Volunteering week**

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> was the culmination of Volunteering Week and to celebrate the annual event, the City of Nedlands organised the Natural Areas Volunteers Appreciation morning with the Friends of Hollywood Reserve, inviting all friends groups along. Bindi Bindi Dreaming educator, Marissa Verma and assistant Sacha shared delectable bush foods and explained Nyoongar peoples' close association with the land on the Swan Coastal Plain. Their personal experiences were inspiring. How much we don't know!

### **Activities**

**Watering roster - we need your help. Please volunteer if you can water the plants in the nursery at the cottage 1 day a week until mid July.**

Planting is now our focus and we'd love it if you can join us **from 9am-11am followed by morning tea**. Trowels will be provided. Bring gloves.

**13<sup>th</sup> June.** Meet at the Bridge Club car park at the path entry to the rugby club.

**20<sup>th</sup> June.** Meet at the Boobook Sector at the top of Jameson St near Jones Park.

**4<sup>th</sup> July.** Meet at the cottage.

**Planting will also occur on Tuesday mornings, 9-11am.** Meet at the cottage.

Interested in becoming a member and devoting a couple of hours a month? Ring either 93847983 or 93831501, or email [foapbg@gmail.com](mailto:foapbg@gmail.com)

Visit us on the Urban Bushland Council's website at <http://www.bushlandperth.org.au/member-groups/3-north-of-the-river/44-friends-of-allen-park-bushland>

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If you wish to make a donation, become a member and continue receiving a quarterly newsletter, please fill out your details below and return to:

The Treasurer FRIENDS OF ALLEN PARK BUSHLAND GROUP INC. 16 Lynton Street, Swanbourne, 6010.

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